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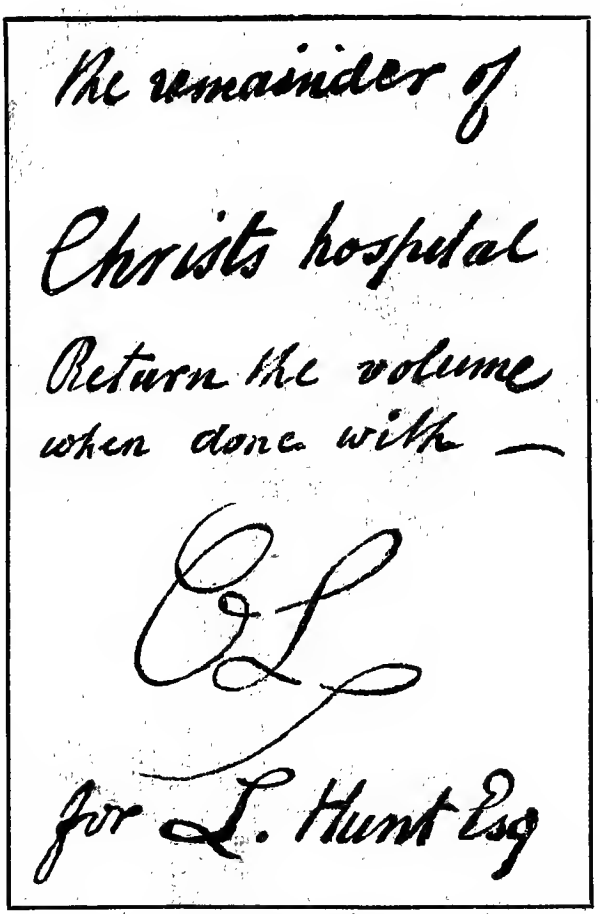
Charles Lamb's Books



Facsimile of inscription in Charles Lamb's autograph on the outside of a volume from his library.

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DODD, MEAD
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NEW YORK

PRICE, TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

DESCRIPTIONS OF A FEW BOOKS

FROM

CHARLES LAMB'S LIBRARY

AND OF SOME

PRESENTATION COPIES AND FIRST EDITIONS OF HIS RARER BOOKS

WITH COLLATIONS AND NOTES

NEW YORK
DODD, MEAD AND COMPANY
149–151 FIFTH AVENUE

CORNELL
UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY

Printed by
The University Press, Cambridge, U. S. A.

NOTICE.

Since this catalogue was put in type the three books from Lamb's library, as well as the "Mr. H." and one set of the "Essays of Elia," have been sold. The descriptions have, however, been allowed to stand.

On the other hand, a copy of the "Tales from Shakespear," first edition, in the original boards, uncut, extremely rare in this condition, has been secured too late to be inserted in its place in the list.

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY.

Printed by
The University Press, Cambridge, U. S. A.

PREFACE

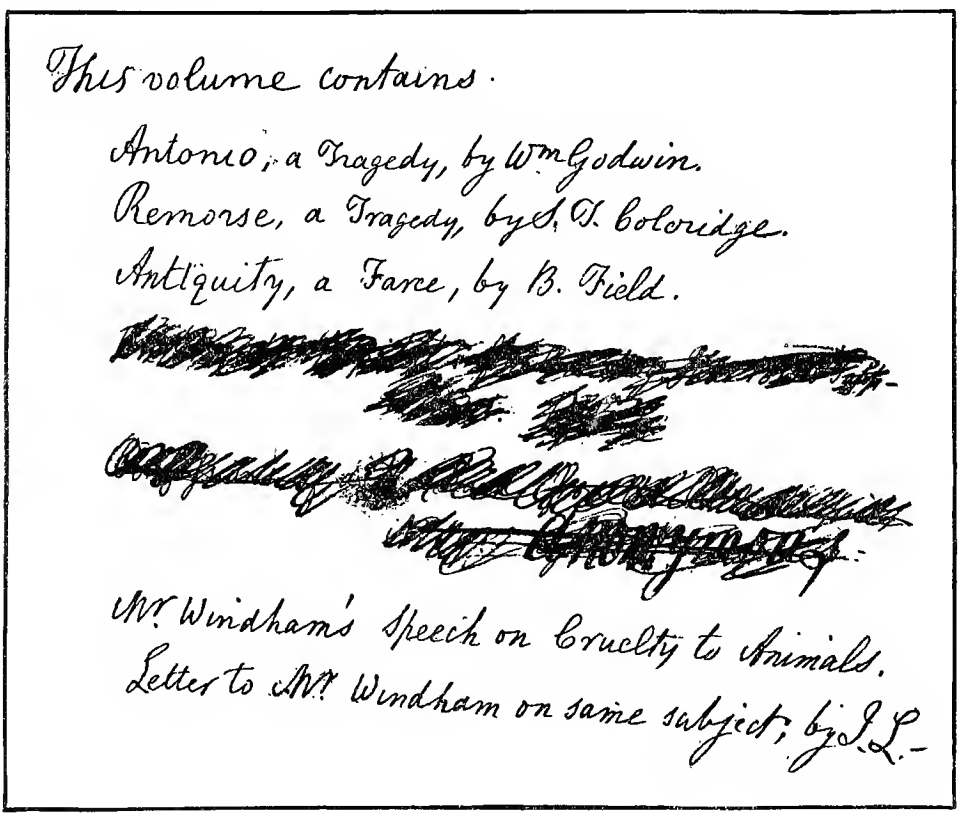
THIS little catalogue of books, which will appeal especially to lovers of the "Gentle Elia" and to collectors of first editions of his works, is printed in a limited number of only 500 copies. The first editions of Lamb's books which we describe are mostly uncut, or in the original bindings, and are rarely met with in such fine condition. As much cannot be said of the books from his library, but they will, at least, have the charm of personal association with their former owner. It is doubtful if an opportunity to secure such interesting volumes from his library will ever occur again. Charles Lamb's own copy of the hitherto unidentified "book about humanity" by his brother John is an item of more than ordinary interest. The reproductions of titlepages are reduced in size, except where otherwise indicated.

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY.

BOOKS FROM CHARLES LAMB'S LIBRARY

Henry Crabb Robinson said, in 1824, of Lamb's Library, "He has the finest collection of shabby books I ever saw; such a number of first-rate works in very bad condition is, I think, nowhere to be found." And most of the volumes which have come down to us agree with his description.

The first of the volumes we have to describe consists of a series of pamphlets collected by Lamb himself and bound in one volume, lettered "Tracts." On the inside of the front cover are the contents of the volume, in Charles Lamb's autograph, as here reproduced: —


This volume contains.

Antonio, a Tragedy, by Wm Godwin.
Remorse, a Tragedy, by S. T. Coleridge.
Antiquity, a Farce, by B. Field.

Mr Windham's Speech on Cruelty to Animals.
Letter to Mr Windham on same subject; by C. L.

The volume now contains five tracts, all of interest on account of their association with Charles Lamb, as follows: —

1. Antonio: | A Tragedy | in | Five Acts. | By William Godwin. | London: | Printed by Wilks and Taylor, Chancery Lane, | For G. G. and J. Robinson, Paternoster Row. | 1800.

Lamb was closely associated with this Tragedy, which was played one night only, December 13, 1800. The Epilogue was by Lamb, but it does not seem to have been printed with the play. The next day, December 14, Lamb wrote to Godwin: "I will barely add, as you are on the very point of printing, that in my opinion neither prologue nor epilogue should accompany the play. It can only serve to remind your readers of its fate. Both suppose an audience, and, that jest being gone, must convert into burlesque." His suggestion regarding the epilogue was, apparently, carried out, as it does not seem to have been printed. Nor has it a prologue.

2. Remorse. | A Tragedy, | In Five Acts. | By S. T. Coleridge. | [Quotation of five lines from the play itself.] | Third Edition. | London: | Printed for W. Pople, 67, Chancery Lane. | 1813. | Price Three Shillings.

For this play Lamb also wrote the prologue, which was spoken by Mr. Carr. This was Coleridge's "Osario," written in 1797, but never printed, now issued with a new title and, in part, at least, re-written. It sold rapidly at first, and Coleridge, before it had been published a month, said that he would make £400 by it, but the next year Lamb wrote, apparently in reply to an inquiry from Coleridge: —

"There is a stock of 'Remorse' on hand — enough as Pople conjectures, for seven years' consumption; judging from experience of the last two years. Methinks it makes for the benefit of sound literature, that the best books do not always go off best. Inquire in seven years' time for the *Rokebys* and the *Laras*, and where shall they be found? — fluttering fragmentally in some thread-paper; whereas thy *Wallenstein* and thy *Remorse* are safe on Longman's or Pople's shelves, as in some Bodleian; there they shall remain; no need of a chain to hold them fast — perhaps for ages — tall copies," etc.

3. Antiquity, | A Farce, | In Two Acts. | [Eight lines of quotations from three authors.] | London: | Printed by Henry Reynell, No. 21, Piccadilly. | For C. Chapple, 66, Pall Mall. | 1808.

This is by Lamb's close friend, Barron Field, and was his first book. It is dedicated to Leigh Hunt, but without mentioning his name. The dedication and the advertisements are dated from the Inner Temple, where Lamb was then also living. There are few letters extant for this period, but we surmise that Lamb read the manuscript and perhaps made suggestions to Field about his first play. In later years he wrote charming letters to Field, who, in 1816, went to Australia and was Judge of the Supreme Court at Sidney, New South Wales, from 1816 to 1824. There, in 1819, he printed,

for private distribution, "First Fruits of Australian Poetry," the first volume of poetry to be printed in Australia. This farce, then, should be a book of extreme interest to the antipodean collector.

4. Speech | of the | Right Hon. W. Windham, | in the | House of Commons, | June 13, 1809, | on | Lord Erskine's Bill | for the more effectual prevention | of cruelty towards animals. | London: | Printed for J. Budd, Pall-Mall. | 1810.

This is of interest to the Lamb collector only in connection with the next. Lord Erskine's bill for the prevention of cruelty to animals was the first effort at legislation in that direction.

5. A Letter to the Right Hon. William Windham, etc., 1810. (Titlepage reproduced on following page.)

This is that little tract on "Humanity" by John Lamb, Charles's brother, heretofore unidentified. In a letter to Henry Crabb Robinson, undated, but written in 1810, Lamb said: —

"My brother, whom you have met at my rooms (a plump good-looking man of seven-and-forty) has written a book about humanity, which I transmit to you herewith. Wilson, the publisher, has put it into his head that you can get it reviewed for him. I dare say it is not in the scope of your review; but if you could put it in any likely train, he would rejoice. For alas! our boasted humanity partakes of vanity. As it is, he teazes me to death with choosing to suppose that I could get it into all the reviews at a moment's notice. I!! who have been set up as a mark for them to throw at, and would willingly consign them all to Megæra's snaky locks.

But here's the book, and don't show it to Mrs. Collier, for I remember she makes excellent eel soup, and the leading points of the book are directed against that very process."

Both Canon Ainger and William Carew Hazlitt, perhaps the two best informed of all students of Lamb and his writings, declare that this curious book is unidentified. The tract consists of 38 pages, including titlepage.

Although Lamb attempted to obliterate by his scrawls the titles of the two works which have been torn out, we have been able to decipher both of them. The first was "On Christ's Hospital: from Gent. Mag. June 1813 & Supplement. By C. L." and the second was "Confessions of a Drunkard, from the Philanthropic Mag. by C. L." On the outside of the volume, in Lamb's handwriting, is written "the remainder of Christs hospital. Return the volume when done with. C. L. For L. Hunt, Esq." This inscription is reproduced on the cover of this catalogue.

Hunt, like Lamb, had been a student at Christ's Hospital. Lamb's first printed account of the school appeared in the *Gentlemen's Magazine* for June, 1813, and in a supplement published at the end of that year. Both were included in this volume. May we surmise that Hunt had read the portion published in the number for June, and that Lamb loaned this volume for him to read "the remainder [of his account] of Christs

A

LETTER

TO THE

RIGHT HON. WILLIAM WINDHAM,

ON HIS OPPOSITION TO

LORD ERSKINE'S BILL,

FOR THE PREVENTION OF

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

London:

Printed by H. Teape, Tower Hill,

For Maxwell and Wilson, 17, Skinner Street, Snow Hill.

Price Two Shillings.

1810.

hospital?" The "Confessions of a Drunkard" is said, by the authorities, to have been first printed in the volume "Some Enquiries into the Effects of Fermented Liquors, by a Water Drinker," edited by Basil Montague and published in 1814. From this inscription, however, we know that it appeared in the *Philanthropic Magazine*, and probably before that date. It was reprinted, with additions, in the *London Magazine* for August, 1822, and signed "Elia." In writing "Anonymous" over his initials, Lamb evidently wished to hide the authorship. Were these two torn out to send to the printer — one in 1818 and the other in 1822? As Hunt came out of prison in February, 1815, it was probably after that date and before the date of publication of the works in 1818 that this volume was loaned to him.

Five tracts in one volume, 8vo, old half sheep, repaired at the joints, in case. Price, $450.00.

The second book from Lamb's library before us has the title "Fragmenta Aurea. | A Collection of all | the | Incomparable Peeces, | written By Sir John Svckling. | And published by a Friend to perpetuate | his memory. | Printed by his owne Copies. | London, Printed for Humphrey Moseley, and are to be | sold at his shop, at the Signe of the Prin- | ces Armes in St. Pauls Churchyard. | MDCXLVI."

On the inside of the front cover, Lamb has copied a long extract from Aubrey regarding Suckling. It begins: —

"He (Suckling) was the greatest gallant of his time, and the greatest gamester, both for bowling & cards, so that no shop keeper would trust him for 6d, as to-day for instance he might by winning be worth £200, the next day he might not be worth half so much, or perhaps be sometimes minus nihilo. Sir W. (Davenant) who was his intimate friend, & loved him entirely, would say that Sir J. when he was at his lowest ebb in gaming, I mean when unfortunate, then would make himself most glorious in apparel, & said that it exalted his spirits, & that he had then best luck when he was most gallant, & his spirits were highest."

There are also occasional notes and corrections in the margins in Lamb's autograph.

This is the first edition of the "Fragmenta Aurea." It lacks the portrait, by Marshall, and the titlepage to "The Goblins" has a piece torn from the inner margin; otherwise, it is a large and very good copy. We have thought it best to leave the book in the condition it was in when Lamb owned it, but the portrait and defective titlepage can be supplied from another copy in stock, if desired.

Small 8vo, old sheep, back repaired, in case. Price, $400.00.

Our third book has the title "The | Life | of | John Buncle, Esq; | containing | Various Observations and Reflections, | Made in several Parts of the World; | and | Many extraordinary Relations. | [Quotation] | London: | Printed for J. Noon, at the White Hart in | Cheapside, near the Poultry. | MDCCLVI."

On June 24, 1797, Lamb wrote to Coleridge, as follows:—

"I have been reading a most curious romance-like work called the 'Life of John Buncle, Esq.' 'T is very interesting, and an extraordinary compound of all manner of subjects, from the depth of the ludicrous to the heights of sublime religious truth. There is much abstruse science in it above my cut, and an infinite fund of pleasantry. John Buncle is a famous fine man, formed in Nature's most eccentric hour."

This book is, no doubt, the identical volume referred to in that letter. It contains on the inside of the front cover a long, critical note in Coleridge's autograph. Though this book seems to be complete in itself, a second volume was published afterwards, as announced in the leaf of advertisements at the end.

8vo, old calf, joints repaired, in case. Price, $90.00.

FIRST EDITIONS OF SOME OF LAMB'S RARER BOOKS.

I. Poems on Various Subjects. By S. T. Coleridge. 1796.

This first edition of Coleridge's Poems contains four "Effusions" by Charles Lamb, signed "C. L." They were written when about twenty years of age, and are his first appearance in print, at least in book form. The little volume must have been published in April, as Cottle, in his Reminiscences, transcribes an inscription in his copy, dated April 15, 1796. William Carew Hazlitt in his latest book on the Lambs says that Charles Lamb's first appearance in type was in the folio volume, "Poems on the Death of Priscilla Farmer," by Charles Lloyd, printed in Bristol by N. Biggs the same year. This is, however, probably an error, as Lloyd first came to live with Coleridge at Bristol on September 21 or 22, 1796. Lamb's verses, "The Grandame," were sent to Coleridge in a letter dated June 13, and it was from "a friend of the author's," undoubtedly Coleridge, that Lloyd received permission to print it with his own.

POEMS,

BY

S. T. COLERIDGE,

SECOND EDITION.

TO WHICH ARE NOW ADDED

POEMS

By CHARLES LAMB,

AND

CHARLES LLOYD.

Duplex nobis vinculum, et amicitiæ et similium junctarumque Camœnarum; quod utinam neque mors solvat, neque temporis longinquitas!

Grotscoll. Epist. ad Car. Utenhov. et Ptol. Lux. Tast.

PRINTED BY N. BIGGS,
FOR J. COTTLE, BRISTOL, AND MESSRS. ROBINSONS, LONDON.
1797.

POEMS

ON

VARIOUS SUBJECTS,

BY

S. T. COLERIDGE,

LATE OF JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

Felix curarum, cui non Heliconia cordi
Serta, nec imbelles Parnassi e vertice laurus!
Sed viget ingenium, et magnos accinctus in usus
Fert animus quasesunque vices.—— Nos tristia vitæ
Solamur cantu.

STAT. SILV. Lib. iv. 4.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR C. C. AND J. ROBINSONS, AND J. COTTLE, BOOKSELLER, BRISTOL.

1796.

Blue morocco, gilt edges. Price, $22.50.

Small 8vo. Collation: A to N, each 8 ll. Consisting of: half title, p. [i]; blank, p. [ii]; title, p. [iii]; blank, p. [iv]; "Preface," pp. [v]–xi; blank, p. [xii]; "Contents," pp. [xiii]–xvi; text and "Notes," pp. [1]–188; "Errata," p. [189]; blank, p. [190]; Advertisement, "Published by the same Author," p. [191]; blank, p. [192].

II. Poems by S. T. Coleridge. Second Edition. 1797.

In the Preface Coleridge says that his "friend and old school-fellow, Charles Lamb," has "communicated" for insertion in this edition "a complete collection of all his Poems." These comprise eight Sonnets, and six pieces classed as "Fragments," besides another, "A Vision of Repentance," included in the Supplement. His portion of the volume is dedicated "to Mary Ann Lamb, the author's best friend and sister." On November 8, 1796, Lamb, still under the influence of that great blow, the death of his mother, wrote to Coleridge: —

"Take my Sonnets, once for all; and do not propose any re-amendments, or mention them again in any shape to me, I charge you. I blush that my mind can consider them as things of any worth. And pray admit or reject these fragments as you like or dislike them, without ceremony. Call 'em Sketches, Fragments, or what you will; but do not entitle any of my things Love Sonnets, as I told you to call 'em."

A TALE

OF

ROSAMUND GRAY

AND

Old Blind Margaret.

BY CHARLES LAMB.

LONDON,
PRINTED FOR LEE AND HURST,
NO. 34, PATER-NOSTER ROW.

1798.

Blue morocco, extra, gilt edges. Price, $37.50.

Small 8vo. Collation: 2 ll.; a and A to R, each 8 ll.; S, 3 ll. Consisting of: title, p. [i]; blank, p. [ii]; half title, "Poems by S. T. Coleridge," p. [iii]; blank, p. [iv]; "Contents," pp. [v]–vi; "Dedication," in verse, dated May 26, 1797, pp. [vii]–xii; "Preface to the First Edition" pp. [xiii]–xvi; "Preface to the Second Edition," pp. [xvii]–xx; text, etc., pp. [1]–278.

III. A Tale of Rosamund Gray and Old Blind Margaret. 1798.

The first book of which Charles Lamb was the sole author and his first printed prose work. The book seems to have taken its title from a poem in the 1795 volume of "Poems" by Lamb's friend, Charles Lloyd (described on another page of this catalogue). It was well received, and on the 20th of May, 1799, Lamb wrote to Southey: "Rosamund sells well in London, malgre the non-reviewal of it." But the *Monthly Review* noticed it, in August, 1800, saying: "Mr. Lamb has here proved him-

self skilful in touching the nicest feelings of the heart and in affording great pleasure to the imagination," etc.

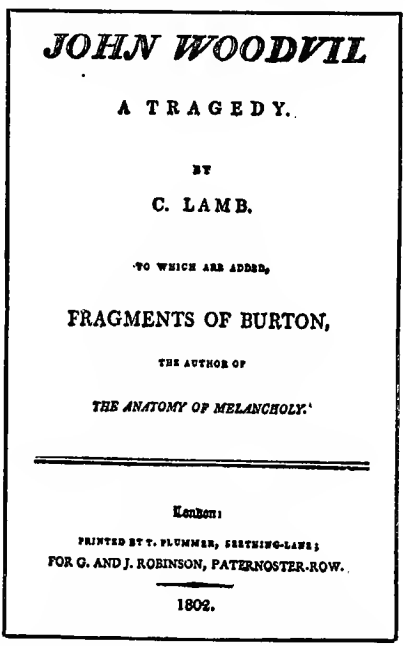
Needless to say, the book is extremely rare. Even in 1815 Talfourd says that he was only able to find a copy "after earnest search in all the book stalls within the scope of my walk." But he afterwards found one "exhibiting proper marks of due appreciation in the store of a little circulating library near Holborn."

Blue levant morocco, super-extra, sides and back tooled, doublé of orange levant morocco, inlaid with blue morocco and tooled with lines, dots, and sprays, watered-silk fly-leaves, edges entirely uncut. Price, $465.00.

Small 8vo. Collation: A to H, each 8 ll.; I, 3 ll. Consisting of: title, p [1]; blank, p. [2]; Dedication, p. [3]; blank, p. [4]; text, pp. [5]–134.

IV. John Woodvil. A Tragedy. 1802.

Lamb's first play, having preceded "Mr. H." The "Fragments" were said to have been "extracted from a common-place book which belonged to Robert Burton, the famous author of 'The Anatomy of Melancholy.'" They are, however, by Lamb himself, the idea having been suggested to him by the Ireland Shakespeare Forgeries.


JOHN WOODVIL

A TRAGEDY.

BY

C. LAMB.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

FRAGMENTS OF BURTON,

THE AUTHOR OF

THE ANATOMY OF MELANCHOLY.

London:

PRINTED BY T. PLUMMER, SEETHING-LANE;

FOR G. AND J. ROBINSON, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1802.

Half brown morocco. Price, $25.00.

Small 8vo. Collation: A, 2 ll.; B to I, each 8 ll. Consisting of: title, p. [i]; blank, p. [ii]; blank, p. [iii]; "Characters" p. [iv]; text, pp. [1]–128.

V. Tales from Shakespear. 1807.

These tales were written jointly by Charles Lamb and his sister Mary. On May 10, 1806, he wrote to Manning, in China:—

"She is doing for Godwin's bookseller twenty of Shakespeare's plays, to be made into children's tales. Six are already done by her, to wit, 'The Tempest,' 'Winter's Tale,' 'Midsummer Night Dream,' 'Much Ado,' 'Two Gentlemen of Verona,' and 'Cymbeline:' and 'The Merchant of Venice' is in forwardness. I have done 'Othello' and 'Macbeth,' and mean to do all the tragedies. I think it will be popular among the little people, besides money. It's to bring in sixty guineas. Mary has done them capitally, I think you'd think."

TALES

FROM

SHAKESPEAR.

DESIGNED

FOR THE USE OF YOUNG PERSONS.

BY CHARLES LAMB.

EMBELLISHED WITH COPPER-PLATES.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THOMAS HODOKINS, AT THE JUVENILE LIBRARY, HANWAY-STREET (OPPOSITE SOHO-SQUARE), OXFORD-STREET; AND TO BE HAD OF ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1807.

And again, on January 29, 1807, he wrote to Wordsworth when sending him a copy of the book: —

"I am answerable for 'Lear,' 'Macbeth,' 'Timon,' 'Romeo,' 'Hamlet,' 'Othello,' for occasionally a tail-piece or correction in grammar, for none of the cuts and all of the spelling. The rest is my sister's. We think 'Pericles' of hers the best, and 'Othello' of mine; but I hope all have some good. 'As you Like it' we like best. So much, only begging you to tear out the cuts, and give them to Johnny as Mrs. Godwin's fancy."

These "cuts," engraved by William Blake from drawings by Mulready, are considered now, by collectors, to give an added charm to the books. William Godwin's wife was the head of the firm, M. J. Godwin & Co., who published several of Lamb's books.

2 vols., original sheep. Price, $110.00.

2 vols., 12mo. Collation: VOL. I. A, 6 ll.; B to K, each 12 ll.; L, 10 ll.; and 10 plates. Consisting of: title, p. [i]; blank, p. [ii]; "Preface," pp. [iii]–ix; blank, p. [x]; "Contents," p. [xi]; blank, p. [xii]; text, pp. [1]–235; imprint, "T. Davison, Printer, Whitefriars." p. [236]. The 10 plates, separately printed, inserted facing titlepage and pp. 22, 43, 63, 86, 116, 140, 164, 188, 215. VOL. II. 2 ll.; A, 2 ll.; B to L, each 12 ll.; M, 10 ll.; and 10 plates. Consisting of: title, p. [i]; imprint, "Printed by T. Davison, Whitefriars," p. [ii]; "Contents" p. [iii]; blank, p. [iv]; text, pp. [1]–261; advertisements, pp. [262]–[264]. 10 plates, separately printed, inserted facing titlepage and pp. 24, 44, 70, 97, 121, 145, 177, 206, 231.

VI. The Adventures of Ulysses. 1808.

The success of the "Tales from Shakespeare" induced the publisher to give Lamb an order to write a similar adaptation of Homer. Lamb did not know Greek, but used Chapman's translation, of which he was very fond. There was, evidently, some dispute between Lamb and his publisher. Godwin had asked him to make some alterations, because "we live in squeamish days," and, on March 11, 1808, Lamb wrote: —

"I cannot alter these things without enervating the Book, and I will not alter them if the penalty should be that you and all the London booksellers should refuse it. . . . I only say that I will not consent to alter such passages, which I know to be some of the best in the book. As an author I say to you an author: touch not my work. As to a bookseller I say, Take the work such as it is, or refuse it. You are as free to refuse it as when we first talked of it. As to a friend I say, Don't plague yourself and me with nonsensical objections. I assure you I will not alter one more word."

Green levant morocco, extra, gilt edges, by Rivière. Price, $22.50.

12mo. Collation: A, 3 ll.; B to I, each 12 ll.; K, 6 ll.; and frontispiece and engraved title. Consisting of: title, p. [i]; blank, p. [ii] "Preface," pp. [iii] and iv; "Contents," pp. [v] and vi; text, pp. [1]–203; advertisement, p. [204]; frontispiece and engraved title, printed separately on thicker paper, engraved by C. Heath after H. Corbould.

THE

ADVENTURES

OF

ULYSSES.

BY CHARLES LAMB.

LONDON,

Printed by T. Davison, Whitefriars,

FOR THE JUVENILE LIBRARY, NO. 41, SKINNER-STREET, SNOW-HILL.

1808.

SPECIMENS

OF

ENGLISH DRAMATIC POETS,

WHO LIVED

About the Time of Shakspeare:

WITH NOTES.

BY CHARLES LAMB.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, AND ORME, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1808.

VII. Specimens of English Dramatic Poets, who lived about the Time of Shakspeare. 1808.

"Specimens are becoming fashionable. We have —'Specimens of Ancient English Poets,' 'Specimens of Modern English Poets,' 'Specimens of Ancient English Prose Writers,' without end. They used to be called 'Beauties.' You have seen 'Beauties of Shakespear?' so have many people that never saw any beauties in Shakespear. Longman is to print it, and be at all the expense and risk; and I am to share the profits after all deductions, *i.e.*, a year or two hence I must pocket what they please to tell me is due to me. But the book is such as I am glad there should be. It is done out of old plays at the Museum and out of Dodsley's Collection, &c."—*From a letter to Manning, February 26, 1808.*

Boards, uncut. Price, $37.00.

8vo. Collation: A, 6 ll.; B to Hh, each 8 ll.; Ii, 2 ll. Consisting of: half title, p. [i]; blank, p. [ii]; title, p. [iii]; imprint, "J. M'Creery, Printer, Black-Horse-Court, Fleet-street," p. [iv]; "Preface," pp. [v]–vii; blank, p. [viii]; "Table of Reference to the Extracts," pp. [ix]–xii; text, pp. [1]–484.

VIII. Mrs. Leicester's School. 1809.

A copy of this very rare book has just been purchased in London. It, however, had not come to hand in time to make a facsimile of the title and give a collation in this catalogue. Particulars as to price and condition will be sent on application.

MR. H.

OR

BEWARE A BAD NAME.

A FARCE IN TWO ACTS.

As performed at the

PHILADELPHIA THEATRE.

PHILADELPHIA:

PUBLISHED BY M. CAREY, 122 MARKET STREET.
A. Fagan, Printer.
1813.

Exact size of original.

IX. Mr. H.; or, Beware a Bad Name. A Farce in Two Acts. 1813.

This play was acted one night, December 10, 1806, at Drury Lane Theatre, Elliston taking the part of Mr. H. It was not printed in England until included in Lamb's Works, in 1818, nor was it again put upon the stage there until about 1827. It was, however, played in Philadelphia in 1812, Mrs. Jefferson, grandmother of the present Joseph Jefferson, taking one of the parts.

Lamb's letters during 1806 are full of references to his play. Before its first performance he wrote as follows to his friend Manning, in China: —

"Now, you 'd like to know the subject. The title is 'Mr. H.' no more; how simple, how taking! A great H sprawling over the playbill, and attracting eyes at every corner. The story is a coxcomb appearing at Bath, vastly rich — all the ladies dying for him—all bursting to know who he is—but he goes by no other name than Mr. H., a curiosity like that of the dames of Strasburg about the man with the great nose. But I won't tell you any more about it. Yes, I will; but I can't give you any idea how I've done it. I'll just tell you that after much vehement admiration, when his true name comes out, 'Hogsflesh,' all the women shun him, avoid him, and not one

can be found to change her name with him — that 's the idea — how flat it is here — but how whimsical in the farce; and only think how hard upon one it is that the ship is despatched to-morrow, and my triumph cannot be ascertained till the Wednesday after — but all China will ring of it by and by."

This little book is extremely rare, and is not included in any printed bibliography of Lamb's writings.

Red levant morocco, extra. Price, $140.00.

Small 12mo. A to C, each 6 ll. Consisting of: title, p. [1]; "Dramatis Personæ," p. [2]; text, pp. [3]-36.

X. Beauty and the Beast: or, A Rough Outside with a Gentle Heart. 1813.

It is known that in 1811 Godwin, the publisher of so many children's books, asked Wordsworth to write a poetical version of "Beauty and the Beast." Wordsworth declined the commission and referred Godwin to William Taylor, of Norwich. While we have no documentary proof of the fact, there seems to be no doubt that Charles Lamb was the person who finally wrote the book.

In this copy, the inscription on the cover is enclosed in a border of rosettes. It was, apparently, printed from the same types as the titlepage, but with slight alterations, the most important being the insertion of the date, 1813, at the bottom. On the back page of cover is an illustration, with the inscription below it, "Go, Be a Beast," quoted from Homer. The little book contains two folding sheets of music, "Beauty's Song," and eight full-page plates, uncolored in this copy, said to be by Maria Flaxman, sister of the sculptor. On page 3 is a water-mark, 1810.

Beauty

AND

THE BEAST:

OR,

A ROUGH OUTSIDE WITH A GENTLE HEART.

A Poetical Version of an Ancient Tale.

ILLUSTRATED WITH

A SERIES OF ENGRAVINGS,

And Beauty's Song at her Spinning Wheel,

Set to Music by Mr. Whitaker.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR M. J. GODWIN,

AT THE JUVENILE LIBRARY, 41, SKINNER STREET;

And to be had of all Booksellers and Toymen throughout the United Kingdom.

Price 5s. 6d. coloured; or 3s. 6d. plain.

Exact size of original.

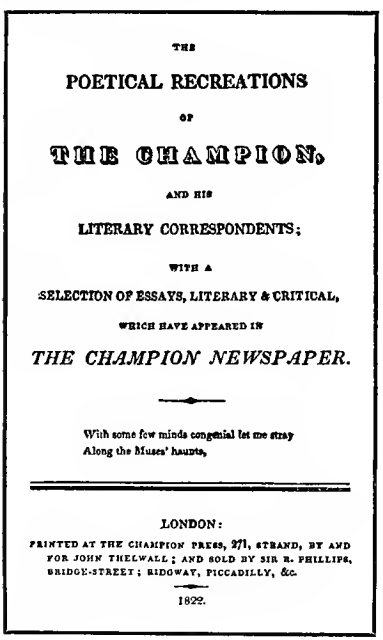
There are at least two editions of this little book, differing only in slight typographical points. In the other edition the titlepage and cover are printed from

different types; there is a key border on the cover instead of this one made up of rosettes; the cover is without date; the ninth line of both title and cover reads "Series of Elegant Engravings;" the music is printed on a single sheet, the second verse being on the reverse; there is no signature mark on page 11, where the copy described above has "B 6;" and there are other lesser points of difference, which show that the book was entirely reprinted.

Though the date of publication has been ascribed to 1811, no copy with this date seems to be extant, and the arbitrary fixing of such date seems to have been based upon the water-mark found on one leaf. The undated copy which we have examined bears no water-mark. And a later edition, with the date 1825, has on the titlepage the words, "Second Edition."

Square 16mo, original boards. Price, $350.00.

16mo. Collation: 1 l.; B, 16 ll.; with 8 plates and 2 folding sheets of music. Consisting of: title, p. [i]; blank, p. [ii]; text, pp. [1]–32; imprint, "London: Printed by B. McMillan, Bow Street, Covent Garden," at bottom of page 32; plates, printed separately, facing pp. 1, 2, 11, 16, 19, 21, 28, 29, and 2 folding sheets of music, one headed "Beauty's Song," and the other "Second Verse," inserted between pp. 2 and 3.


THE

POETICAL RECREATIONS

OF

THE CHAMPION,

AND HIS

LITERARY CORRESPONDENTS;

WITH A

SELECTION OF ESSAYS, LITERARY & CRITICAL,

WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN

THE CHAMPION NEWSPAPER.

With some few minds congenial let me stray
Along the Muses' haunts,

LONDON:

PRINTED AT THE CHAMPION PRESS, 271, STRAND, BY AND FOR JOHN THELWALL; AND SOLD BY SIR R. PHILLIPS, BRIDGE-STREET; RIDGWAY, PICCADILLY, &c.

1822.

XI. The Poetical Recreations of the Champion. 1822.

This volume contains ten pieces by Charles Lamb, signed "R. et R.," all of which have been included in Percy Fitzgerald's edition of Lamb's Works. They are here first published in book form, as collected from the Champion newspaper, for which they were written. Fitzgerald suggests that R. et R. stands for Romulus et Remus. A file of the Champion newspaper would probably show other pieces with the same signature, as the editor notes, at the head of the Index, that "It is much to be regretted that, by mere oversight, or rather mistake, several of the pointed Epigrams of 'R. et R.' have been omitted."

John Thelwall, the editor of this volume, was one of Lamb's good friends. While he undertook many things, he was perhaps most successful as an instructor in elocution, and made a specialty of the cure of stammering. A leaf advertising this department of his business is part of the first signature of this book. This leaf contains

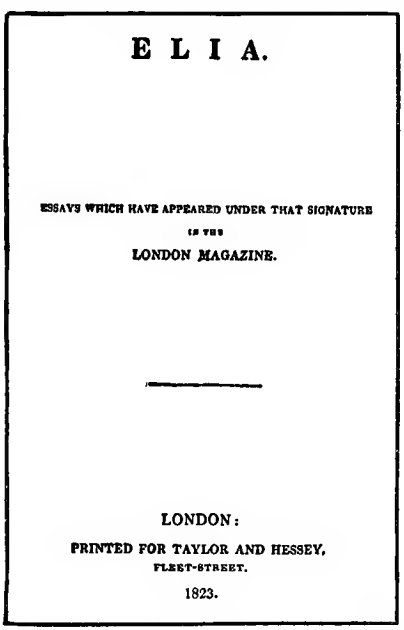
the misprint "embowed" for embowered," and was probably reprinted, with the text crowded into one page, as described in the second copy.

The first copy described was presented by him to Mr. Cull, and contains this inscription in his autograph: "To Mr. Cull, with the respectful remembrances of John Thelwall, 16 December, 1831."

Old half calf (lacking the half title). Price, $15.00.

8vo. Collation: A, 4 ll. (leaf A i lacking in this copy); B. to Q., each 8 ll.; R. 4 ll. Consisting of: half title, p. [i]; blank, p. [ii]; title, p. [iii]; blank, p. [iv]; advertisement, pp. [v]–vi; advertisement, "Instructions in Elocution," pp. [vii]–viii; text, pp. [1]–242; index, pp. [243]–[248]; imprint at bottom of p. [248] "Printed by and for John Thelwall, 271, Strand."

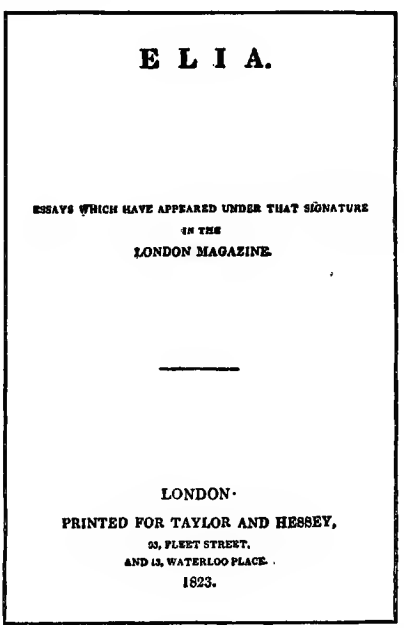
THE SAME. Another copy, in original boards, with paper label, uncut, with the half title and with reprinted leaf of advertisement, the misprint corrected, and the whole crowded into a single page, inserted on the stubb of A iv.


ELIA.

ESSAYS WHICH HAVE APPEARED UNDER THAT SIGNATURE
IN THE
LONDON MAGAZINE.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR TAYLOR AND HESSEY,
FLEET-STREET.
1823.

First Issue.


ELIA.

ESSAYS WHICH HAVE APPEARED UNDER THAT SIGNATURE
IN THE
LONDON MAGAZINE.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR TAYLOR AND HESSEY,
93, FLEET STREET,
AND 13, WATERLOO PLACE.
1823.

Second Issue.

XII. Elia. Essays which have appeared under that Signature in the London Magazine. 1823.

There were two issues of this first edition,—a fact which has not been pointed out in any published bibliography. Collectors have always considered the book imperfect

if the half-title was lacking. The facts are briefly these: In the earliest issue the titlepage and leaf of contents formed Sig. A., 2 ll. After some copies had been sent out it is evident that the publishers, Taylor & Hessey, opened another establishment in Waterloo Place. The titlepage was reprinted, and on the same sheet with it was printed a half-title. The old title was torn out and the leaf of contents gummed on to the new title, so that the second issue has three preliminary leaves, while the first has only two. The book, even including the leaves of advertisements at the back, is otherwise identical in both issues.

8vo. Collation of first issue: A, 2 ll.; B to Y, each 8 ll.; Z, 6 ll. Consisting of title, p. [i]; blank p. [ii]; "Contents," pp. [iii] and [iv]; text, pp. [1]–341; imprint, "London: Printed by Thomas Davison, Whitefriars," p. [342]; advertisements, pp. [343]–[348].

Collation of second issue: 3 ll.; B to Y, each 8 ll.; Z, 6 ll. Consisting of: half title, p. [i]; imprint, "London: Printed by Thomas Davison, Whitefriars," p. [ii]; title, p. [iii]; blank, p. [iv]; "Contents," pp. [v] and [vi]; text, pp. [1]-341; imprint, same as on p. [ii], p. [342]; advertisements, pp. [343]–[348].

THE LAST ESSAYS

OF

ELIA.

BEING

A SEQUEL TO ESSAYS PUBLISHED UNDER THAT NAME.

LONDON:
EDWARD MOXON, DOVER STREET.
1833.

XIII. The Last Essays of Elia. 1833.

The name "Elia," assumed by Lamb for these essays in the *London Magazine*, was, as he explains it, that of one of his co-workers in the India House. In a letter to one of his publishers, under date of December 7, 1822, he wrote: —

"Poor Elia, the real (for I am but a counterfeit) is dead. The fact is, a person of that name, an Italian, was a fellow-clerk of mine at the South Sea House, thirty (not forty) years ago, when the characters I described there existed, but had left it, like myself, many years; and I having a brother now there, and doubting how he might relish certain descriptions in it, I clapt down the name "Elia" to it, which passed off pretty well, for Elia himself added the function of an author to that of a scrivener, like myself. I went the other day (not having seen him for a year) to laugh over with him at my usurpation of his name, and found him, alas! no more than a name, for he died of consumption eleven months ago, and I knew not of it."

Though the first series was printed as an octavo and the second as a twelvemo, they are almost exactly the same size, the latter being only about one-fourth inch the taller of the two.

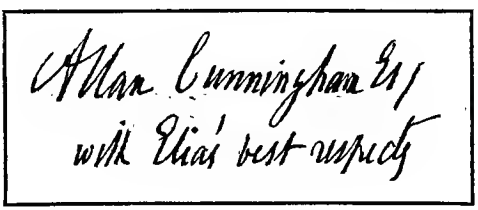
The copy described was given by Lamb to his pastor, and has the inscription in Lamb's autograph: "Rev. Dr. Cresswell. With Elia's best respects." Dr. Daniel Cress-

well was vicar of Enfield from 1823 to 1844, and Charles Lamb lived at Enfield from 1826 to 1832.

12mo. Collation: A, 6 ll.; B to N, each 12 ll. Consisting of: half title p. [i]; blank p. [ii]; title, p. [iii]; imprint, "London: printed by Bradbury and Evans, Bouverie street," p. [iv]; "Preface," pp. [v]–x; "Contents," pp. [xi] and xii; text, pp. [1]–283; imprint, "Bradbury and Evans, printers, 22, Bouverie street," p. [284]; advertisements, pp. [285]–[288].

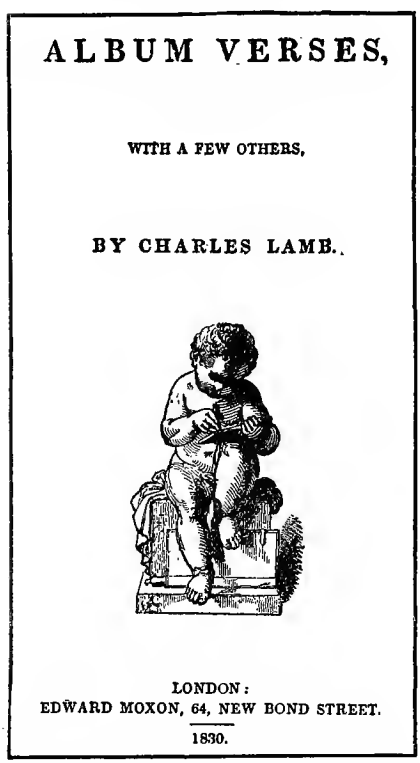
2 vols., original boards, entirely uncut. Vol. I., earliest issue; Vol. II., presentation copy above described. Price, $275.00.

THE SAME. Another set, 2 vols., original boards, uncut. Vol. I., second issue. Price, $180.00.



THE SAME. First Series only. Red morocco. Presentation copy from the author to Allan Cunningham, with "Allan Cunningham, Esq., with Elia's best respects," on a slip in Lamb's autograph pasted inside of the front cover, and with an autograph letter, signed, of Charles Lamb to Allan Cunningham; also a portion of an autograph letter of J. A. Hessey (one of the publishers of this edition) inserted. Price, $300.00.

THE SAME. Last Essays only. Cloth, sprinkled edges. "Barry Cornwall's" copy, with "B. W. Procter" on the inside of front cover. Price, $18.50.


ALBUM VERSES,

WITH A FEW OTHERS,

BY CHARLES LAMB.

LONDON:
EDWARD MOXON, 64, NEW BOND STREET.
1830.

XIV. Album Verses, with a Few Others. 1830.

"Could you dream of my publishing without sending a copy to you? You will find something new to you in this volume, particularly the translations. Moxon will send to you the moment it is out. He is the young poet of Christmas, whom the Author of the 'Pleasures of Memory' has set up in the book-vending business with a volunteer'd loan of £500. Such munifi-

cence is rare to an almost stranger; but Rogers, I am told, has done many good-natured things of this kind."

Original boards (loose), uncut. Price, $12.00.

8vo. Collation: A, 4 ll.; B to K, each 8 ll.; L, 4 ll. Consisting of: title, p [i]; imprint, "Bradbury and Evans, printers, Bouverie street, Fleet street;" p. [ii]; "Dedication," pp. [iii] and iv; "Contents," pp. [v]–vii; blank, p. [viii]; text, pp. 1–150; imprint, same as on p. [ii] at bottom of p. 150; advertisement, p. [151]; blank, p. [152].

BOOKS WITH A LAMB INTEREST.

Poems on Various Subjects. By Charles Lloyd. [Quotation.] Carlisle: printed by F. Jollie, for J. Richardson, Penrith; and sold by C. Law, London; T. Pearson, Birmingham. M,DCC,XCV.

Interesting as containing four songs to Rosamund Gray, which, no doubt, suggested the name for Lamb's story. It is Charles Lloyd's first book.

8vo, half red morocco, gilt top, uncut. Price, $20.00.

The First Book of Poetry. For the Use of Schools. Intended as Reading Lessons for the Younger Classes. By W. F. Mylius. With Two Engravings. London: Printed for M. J. Godwin, at the Juvenile Library, 41, Skinner Street, Snow Hill; and to be had of all booksellers. 1811. Price, 3s, bound in Sheep. 12mo.

Mylius, the editor of this, was a teacher in Christ's Hospital, the famous "Blue Coat" School. He was the author of many other books. This volume might be called a second edition of "Poetry for Children," as, in the advertisement of "Poetry for Children," at the end it states, "Out of print, but the best pieces inserted in Mylius' First Book of Poetry."

Small 8vo, sheep. Price, $25.00.

The Poetical Class-Book; or, Reading Lessons for Every Day in the Year, Selected from the most Popular English Poets, Ancient and Modern. For the Use of Schools. By William Frederic Mylius, Author of the Junior Class-Book, and School Dictionary of the English Language. London: Printed for M. J. Godwin, At the Juvenile Library, No. 41, Skinner Street, and to be had of all Booksellers; By B. McMillan, Bow Street, Covent Garden. 1810.

This is chiefly interesting to Lamb collectors on account of the advertisements in the back, which include "Tales from Shakespeare," "Adventures of Ulysses," "Mrs. Leicester's School," "Poetry for Children," "Beauty and the Beast," and "Prince Dorus."

Small 8vo, old half calf. Price, $7.50.